Getting Started in Court Interpreting- posted 6/29/10

Interpreter Candidate *"How do I know if court interpreting is right for me?"*

Shaw-Chin Chiu, AOC *"There are two things I'd recommend to help you find out. Do a self-assessment, like the one on our website and go to court and sit in on some proceedings."*

"Get a sense of the environment and the language used."

"Almost all proceedings are open to the public, so it's easy to do. Watch a trial or hearing that actually uses an interpreter, if you can. See if you think court is somewhere you'd like to work."

Interpreter Candidate *"How do I prepare for a career in court interpreting?"*

Shaw-Chin Chiu, AOC *"We link to a number of training programs and other resources, on our "prepare" webpage, including self-study tools. Our records show that self-study is one effective way to prepare for this career, so if you think you do not have a lot of training opportunities, don't worry—you can still get ready for a career in court interpreting."*

Interpreter Candidate *"I think court interpreting might be a good profession for me and I think I'm ready, what do I do next?"*

Shaw-Chin Chiu, AOC *"Once you've prepared, it will be time to take our written and oral examinations. Our written exam is a computer-administered, English-only test. Once you've passed the written exam, you can take either the English oral proficiency exam or the bilingual oral interpreting exam, depending on what language or languages you'll be interpreting in."*

Interpreter Candidate *"What do you mean? Why does it depend on what language I speak?"*

Shaw-Chin Chiu, AOC *"California has both certified and registered interpreters. Languages, and the interpreters who speak them, are called certified if we have a bilingual interpreting exam for them."*

"All the other languages, including many dialects and indigenous languages, are called registered languages and require you to pass the oral English proficiency exam. You can see the full list of certified languages on our Web site. If your language is not on the list, it is a registered language.